

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :
 :
 v. : **CRIMINAL NO. 20-458**
 :
CHRISTOPHER MAY :

GOVERNMENT’S MOTION FOR ORDER OF FORFEITURE

The United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Jennifer Arbittier Williams, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Sean McDonnell, Assistant United States Attorney, respectfully requests entry of an order of forfeiture, and, in support of this motion, the United States represents as follows:

1. On December 7, 2020 Christopher May was charged in an Information with violating 18 U.S.C. § 1343, wire fraud (Counts One and Two). The Information also contained a Notice of Forfeiture, which alleged that the defendant’s interest in certain property was forfeitable, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), as a result of his violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Counts One and Two). The Notice of Forfeiture also provided notice that, in the event such property cannot be located, the government would seek to recover substitute assets pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p).

2. On February 3, 2021, Christopher May pleaded guilty to Counts One and Two of the Information.

3. As a result of his guilty plea, the defendant is required, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), to forfeit criminally his interest in any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the violations charged in Counts One and Two of the Information.

4. Based upon the defendant's plea agreement and the facts set forth in the record as a whole, the government avers that the sum of \$1,213,500 in United States currency is subject to forfeiture as a result of the defendant's guilty plea to Counts One and Two of the Information, and that the government has established the requisite nexus between such property and the offenses. This amount represents the value of proceeds that he obtained as a result of and are traceable to his violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343. *See Honeycutt v. United States*, 137 S. Ct. 1626 (2017) (a defendant must forfeit the property that he himself acquired from the offense giving rise to the forfeiture); *United States v. Gjeli*, 867 F.3d 418, 426-27 (3d Cir. 2017) (applying *Honeycutt* to forfeitures of proceeds under 18 U.S.C. § 1963 and 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C)); *United States v. Brown*, 694 Fed. App'x 57, 2017 WL 3404979 (3d Cir. Aug. 9, 2017) (applying *Honeycutt* to forfeitures of proceeds under 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(2)); *United States v. Vampire Nation*, 451 F.3d 189, 202 (3d Cir. 2006) (an *in personam* forfeiture money judgment may be entered against the defendant for the full amount of the criminal proceeds); Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1) (where the government seeks an order of forfeiture for criminal proceeds, the court must determine the amount of money that the defendant will be ordered to pay).

5. The government, therefore, seeks an order of forfeiture of the \$1,213,500 in proceeds that the defendant obtained as a result of and are traceable to his violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and the entry of a money judgement in this amount.

6. Based upon the facts set forth at the defendant's change of plea hearing, and in the record as a whole, the government avers that the defendant has dissipated or otherwise spent the proceeds that he obtained and the United States cannot locate the proceeds upon the exercise of due diligence, and one or more of the conditions in 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) have been met. Accordingly, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 853(p) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure

32.2(e)(1)(B), the government is authorized to seek forfeiture of substitute assets of the defendant up to the amount \$1,213,500. 21 U.S.C. § 853(p); Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(2).¹

7. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(A), “[a]s soon as practical after a verdict or finding or guilty, or after a plea of guilty or nolo contendere is accepted ... the court must determine what property is subject to forfeiture under the applicable statute.” Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(A). When the government seeks forfeiture of specific property, “the court must determine whether the government has established the requisite nexus between the property and the offense;” when the government seeks a forfeiture money judgment, “the court must determine the amount of the money that the defendant will be ordered to pay”. *Id.* The Court’s determination may be based on “evidence already in the record ... and on any additional evidence or information submitted by the parties and accepted by the court as relevant and reliable.” Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1)(B). “Unless doing so is impractical, the court must enter the preliminary order sufficiently in advance of sentencing to allow the parties to suggest revisions or modifications before the order becomes final as to the defendant under Rule 32.2(b)(4).” Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(2)(B). The preliminary order of forfeiture becomes final as

¹ Title 21 U.S.C. § 853(p) provides that the government is entitled to the forfeiture of substitute property if, as a result of any act of the defendant, forfeitable property cannot be found upon the exercise of due diligence or has been transferred or deposited with a third party. Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(e)(1)(B) provides that the court may, at any time, amend an existing order of forfeiture to include substitute property. The government may forfeit substitute assets to satisfy a forfeiture money judgment. *See, e.g., United States v. Hall*, 434 F.3d 42, 58 n.7 (1st Cir. 2006) (substitute assets may be forfeited to satisfy a forfeiture order for a sum of money that the defendant, by his act or omission, has prevented the government from tracing); *United States v. Moses*, No. 1:05-CR-133, 2010 WL 3521725, at *9 (D. Vt. Sept. 7, 2010) (any property not forfeited as proceeds or facilitating property may be forfeited as substitute assets to satisfy the money judgment); *United States v. George*, No. 1:09cr431, 2010 WL 1740814, at *3 (E.D. Va. Apr. 26, 2010) (defendant ordered to forfeit annuity payments she was entitled to receive for the next ten years as substitute asset in partial satisfaction of money judgment); *United States v. Carroll*, 346 F.3d 744, 749 (7th Cir. 2003) (defendant may be ordered to forfeit “every last penny” he owns as substitute assets to satisfy money judgment).

to the defendant at sentencing, or earlier if the defendant consents. Fed. R. Crim. P.

32.2(b)(4)(A).

8. The government requests authority to conduct discovery, in accordance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(3) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(m), to identify, locate, and dispose of property subject to forfeiture and to address any third-party claims.

9. Because the government seeks only a forfeiture order in the amount of proceeds that the defendant obtained and does not seek the forfeiture of any specific asset at this time, advertisement of the order and third-party proceedings are not required. Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(1) (no ancillary proceedings to address third party claims required where forfeiture does not include specific property).

For the reasons stated above, the government requests that this Court enter the attached Order.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER ARBITTIER WILLIAMS
Acting United States Attorney

/s/ Sarah L. Grieb
SARAH L. GRIEB
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Asset Recovery and Financial Litigation

/s/Sean P. McDonnell
SEAN MCDONNELL
Assistant United States Attorney

Date: May 17, 2021

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
v.	:	CRIMINAL NO. 20-458
CHRISTOPHER MAY	:	

ORDER OF FORFEITURE

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. As a result of defendant Christopher May's guilty plea as to Counts One and Two of the Information charging him with wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, the defendant is to forfeit criminally his interest in any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to such offenses, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).
2. All property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds that the defendant obtained as a result of and are traceable to his violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 is forfeited to the United States.
3. The sum of \$1,213,500 represents the value of property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds that the defendant obtained as a result of and are traceable to the offenses charged in Counts One and Two of the Information.
4. The defendant shall forfeit to the United States the \$1,213,500 in proceeds that he obtained as a result of his violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343, as charged in Counts One and Two of the Information, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(2).

5. A money judgment in the amount of \$1,213,500 is hereby entered against the defendant.

6. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), due to the defendant's acts or omissions, these proceeds are not currently available to the government for forfeiture, and the United States is authorized to seek forfeiture of substitute assets of the defendant up to the amount of the uncollected money judgment. The government may move at any time, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(e)(1)(B), to amend this Order to forfeit specific property belonging to the defendant having a value up to the amount of the uncollected money judgment, as substitute assets.

7. Upon entry of this Order or any amendment thereto that is entered pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(e), the Attorney General or a designee is authorized to seize any specific property subject to forfeiture that is identified in this Order or subsequent amendment, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(3).

8. Upon entry of this Order, the Attorney General or a designee, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(3) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(m), is authorized to conduct any discovery to identify, locate, and dispose of property subject to this Order and to address any third-party claims, including depositions, interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and subpoenas pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45.

9. Because the government does not seek forfeiture of any specific asset at this time, advertisement of the judgment and third-party proceedings are not required. Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(1) (no ancillary proceedings to address third-party claims required where specific property is not being forfeited).

10. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)(4), this forfeiture Order shall become final as to the defendant at the time of sentencing and shall be made part of the defendant's sentence and included in the judgment and commitment order.

11. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce this forfeiture Order, and to amend it as necessary, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(e).

12. The Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania shall deliver a copy of this forfeiture Order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and to counsel for the parties.

ORDERED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

HONORABLE TIMOTHY J. SAVAGE
United States District Court Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the Government's Motion for Order of Forfeiture and proposed Forfeiture Order have been filed electronically in the Clerk's Office Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system and are available for viewing and downloading from the ECF system, and that a true and correct copy of the motion and proposed order were served upon counsel for the defendant by electronic filing, as follows:

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Date: May 17, 2021